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# Proposed 'Freedom Academy,' and Arguments

Pro and Con

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WASHINGTON.—A federal academy to train U. S. officials and prepare the nation's citizens to understand and counter Communism's Cold War strategies seems likely to become a reality during the new Congress.

Backers of this so-called "Freedom Commission" Bill see the academy as democracy's answer to various centers in Moscow, Prague, Red China, and elsewhere, which draw Communists from throughout the Red world for intensive total warfare training.

The Communists, these legislators argue, use their centers to teach all forms of social conflict—political, ideological, psychological, and even parliamentary, etc., in their massive effort to win and remake the world into a Marxist society.

In contrast, the bill's supporters say U. S. efforts are diffuse, piecemeal, and inadequate. One of the bill's champions, Sen. Thomas Dodd (Dem., Conn.), vice chairman of the Senate International Security Subcommittee—

"The free world does not have to ape Communist methods. This is neither desirable nor necessary. It is a question of thinking thru all of the methods and means free men can properly use when faced with a Soviet type challenge, then integrating these into a total counter-strategy of our own, which will meet the entire Soviet attack, not just parts of it, and work toward our national objectives in a systematic manner.

"Further, our own strategy must not be merely defensive. Those who plan only a holding

operation are inviting eventual defeat. Ours must be a strategy with the worldwide victory of freedom as its ultimate objective."

To do this the "Freedom Commission" Bill would create an independent commission of seven members, appointed by the president and serving staggered six-year terms. They would establish an advanced training and development center—the Freedom Academy.

The commission would bring together within the academy a full-time faculty of experts to develop and teach ways and means of thwarting the Soviet total warfare approach and effecting its own "strategy for victory."

As envisaged, the academy would not only provide intensive training for professionals in the upper levels of government, but also less extensive training for lower echelon officials and private citizens, such as newspaper editors, civic and labor leaders and foreign students.

Altho the House has never held hearings on this measure, it passed the Senate quietly, on voice vote, in the closing days of the 86th Congress. As evidence of the broad support it enjoyed, the bill's Senate champions pointed to its unlikely combination of major sponsors, Illinois liberal Democrat Paul Douglas and South Dakota's right-wing Republican Karl Mundt.

Actually the bill was first introduced in the House some two years ago by Rep. Walter Judd (Rep., Minn.), former medical missionary and longtime student of Communism's total warfare technique, and Rep. Sydney Herlong (Dem., Fla.).

In the House, it was referred to the House Un-American Activities Committee, headed by Rep. Francis E. Walter (Dem., Pa.), who is said to lean toward objections offered by the State and Justice Departments during Senate hearings on the bill.

These two executive departments said they thought the development and training functions of the Freedom Academy—an estimated \$35,000,000-a-year operation—could be handled with less overlapping and confusion by existing agencies.

The Foreign Service Institute, the National War College, the Army and Naval War Colleges, the Air University, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, private foundations, the Russian Research Center at Harvard and similar centers elsewhere all deal with various aspects of the problem in varying degrees.

Sen. Dodd argues, however, "It would take a major overhaul, a drastic reorientation, a greatly expanded staff and facilities before any one of (the government agencies) or all of them together, could approach the work of the Freedom Academy . . . as a practical matter, nothing will be done until one agency is divorced from other responsibilities and given clear direction and authority to do the job."

The Senate sponsors plan to re-introduce their bill. Rep. Judd says he will seek an early conference with House Speaker Sam Rayburn to expedite the bill's passage by the House. They are optimistic of success.

Furthermore, under the Kennedy administration they hope that objections of State and Justice Departments will be withdrawn. Both Sen. Douglas and Douglas, who helped wheel them behind the Democratic national ticket, will have an influence within the Executive Department that they haven't enjoyed under the Eisenhower administration.

Another factor in the bill's favor, mentioned by its backers—is clever wording. What plan would really enjoy going on record in relation to a "Freedom" Commission?